



# RATT UBLICATIONS

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*Genealogical Institute*

*Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute*

**"A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..."**

**BY**

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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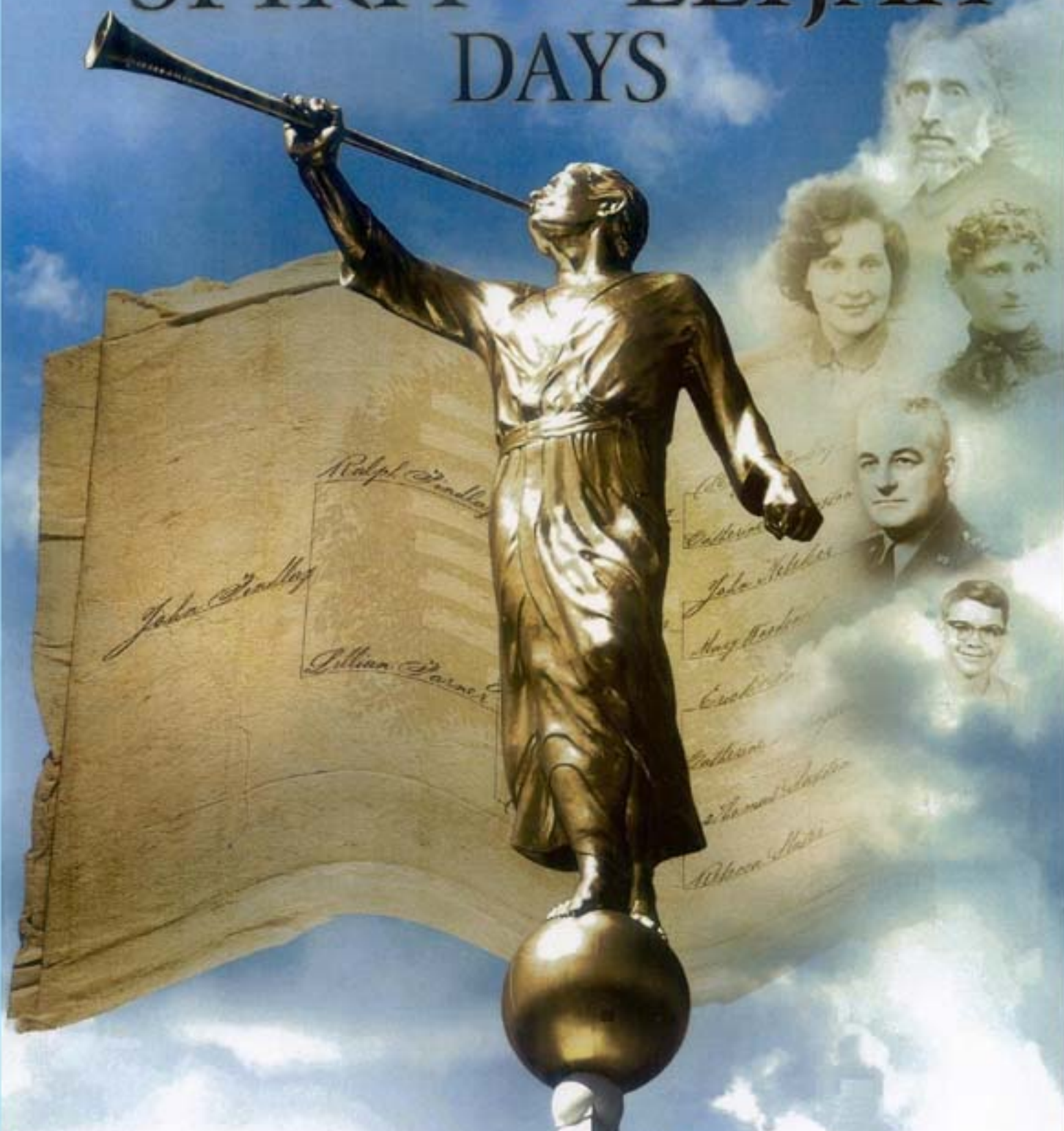
*M.A.G.I.* Course #4 educates the student to the proper understanding of identifying female birth surnames and the preferred procedures for creating useful obituaries. Mr. Pratt offers a simple process thereby eliminating confusion and misunderstandings by using a standardized identifying process or method concerning female birth surnames.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

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# SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS



**"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6**

# *Genealogical Institute's Master Accreditation Course*

## **COURSE LESSON #4 "A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..."**

by *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* © 2014 Revised 2015

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### **OBJECTIVE**

To acquaint the family researcher with a proper understanding of identifying female birth surnames.

After 39 years of researching family histories and accumulating over 42,000 ancestors in my primary tree, I have discovered there exists a great deal of confusion when it comes to displaying maiden names, married names, subsequent married names and adopted names when it pertains to our female ancestors and relatives.

I have been dismayed, by an indifferent attitude or concern writers, authors, researchers and newspaper editors have displayed by publishing various documents, purposely confusing their readers by not using a standardized identifying process or method concerning female birth surnames.

I have been using a method developed over the last 39 years, which clarifies and displays to the reader an easy and recognizable method immediately removing any confusion concerning the marital status of our female ancestors.

### **SOME OF THE PROBLEMS...**

I have seen newspaper reporters when presenting an obituary, list the deceased female's name in such a way as to confuse the reader as to her married name, maiden name and additional married names. Even to the extent of **leaving previous married surnames** out of the obituary but listing children from those previous marriages in the obituary!!!

I have seen instances where maiden names were listed as such...(Jones) or (Smith) conveying to the reader no indication if this is indeed a maiden name or another married name.

Also, let's clarify this concept...describing her birth surname as a maiden name is outdated and presents the wrong connotations. Therefore, henceforth I shall refer to female maiden names as birth surname.

Using the old French and English "***née***" prior to the birth surname indicates the female was born as that person in that particular family. This is mostly used on headstones and seldom used in today's society.

However, when one runs across nee Jones or nee Smith, this is a good indicator of her birth surname.

Now that we understand the problem, let's investigate the solution.

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### **REMOVING THE CONFUSION....**

I have developed a method that clarifies and alerts the reader and is instantly aware of the marital status of any female without scratching their heads in confusion.

I have been using this method for the last 38 years and have had no complaints as to its understanding by the general public.

There are several instances where identifying a female's maiden surname, married name, adopted name and subsequent married names needs to be adopted into the family history research community as a standardized method.

I shall present these methods for future generations so they may adapt to this style of recording to help readers understand the female's identity. The reasoning behind my statement...claiming future generations will adopt this method is based on this generation's failure, lack of ability or indifference to adopt or change.

Also, as more of us enlightened researchers adopt this method, we will force institutions, computer programmers, newspapers editors and family researchers to adopt their programs and procedures to comply with this form of identification.

As it currently stands, most computer programs do not recognize female birth surnames as (**BIRTH SURNAME**) and want to display ALL surnames in Caps.

This is unsatisfactory and does not meet the needs of the family search community.

### **THE METHOD AND EXAMPLES....**

#### **Rule # [1]**

First of all and primary, when listing a female using her birth surname, she should always be listed beginning and ending with parenthesis (**JONES**) with the maiden name in **bold CAPS**.

This immediately alerts the reader the name **JONES** is her birth surname and not a married or adopted family name. Also, it clarifies the name **JONES** is not a baptism name, stage name, pen name, ring name, assumed name, alias and nickname.

Using the **bold CAPS** as a birth surname also eliminates any confusion concerning adopted or divorced surnames.

The parenthesis around the (**BIRTH SURNAME**) alerts the reader to a birth surname and not just a whimsical injection by the author.



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Sure, it takes a little more time, and sure it slows down your recording process, but it sends a clear and distinct signal of your intentions to your readers and helps to identify your female subject thereby, solving a problem that has confused mankind since the invention of writing.

Warning...using the **bold CAPS** as a birth surname should not be used by the unknowledgeable and/or people who are guessing as to the women's birth surname.

Placing the wrong birth surname in an article, obituary, headstone, report or story throws the researchers in the wrong direction and hampers the research process.

If the birth surname is not known, then state as such and you will be doing the research community a great service.

### **Rule # [2]**

The next consideration would be married surnames. Women marry sometimes in multiple instances.

For example... Beulah Trassy (**COFFMAN**) Beautin Spoel Cross Pratt James

Yes, this is a real person and she was married 5 times.

Beulah is the daughter of Joseph Lafayette "Fate" & Elizabeth Isabelle "Izzie" (**DAVIS**) Coffman born in either Meramec Township, Phelps County, Missouri, United States or Courtois Township, Crawford County, Missouri, United States on 23 April 1906.

The data on Beulah is still being collected so we don't have the dates and places of all her marriages as of yet.

However, we know she married 1<sup>st</sup> James Thomas Beautin circa 1921-1922 and married 2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Spoel followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> Kenneth Archibald Cross and then my Great Uncle 4<sup>th</sup> Henry Arthur Pratt circa 1960-1961 with her final and last spouse; 5<sup>th</sup> Clifford D. James.

By listing her as... Beulah Trassy (**COFFMAN**) Beautin Spoel Cross Pratt James indicates to the reader the unmistakable identity of each of those names. Beulah and Trassy being her given names, (**COFFMAN**) her birth surname followed by each of her spouses in the order of her marriages.

This method is invaluable for identity purposes and gives the basis and foundation in which to start research proceedings. Since Coffman is her birth surname then we would be looking for a marriage license between Coffman and Beautin or Beauton. Then, we would be looking for a marriage license between Beautin and Spoel, Spoel and Cross, Cross and Pratt and finally Pratt and James.

This is the proper method when listing a woman who has been married more than once.

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However, how do you handle a situation where she has been married prior to her marriage to your direct line ancestor? Same way, using the same example... Beulah Trassy (**COFFMAN**) Beutin Spoel Cross Pratt James.

Let's say, when she would have married Kenneth Archibald Cross she would have been listed as Beulah Trassy (**COFFMAN**) Beutin Spoel. Thereby giving the family history researcher an idea on what names she may have been using when she married Mr. Cross.

Sometimes, when a marriage was an unpleasant experience, the woman would drop her previous married name and revert back to her birth surname or if she had prior children to the "new" marriage, revert to her children's father's surname, which would have been one of her previous spouse's married names.

Consequently, if I were looking for a marriage record for Beulah and Kenneth Archibald Cross I would be looking for Beulah (**COFFMAN**), Beulah Beutin or Beulah Spoel. Of course, this is based on the fact you, the researcher, are aware of all your subject's spouses.

By listing all her married surnames after her birth surname, provides the family history researcher a road map and by tracking her in the census records helps researchers to narrow down the locales she may have been married. Thereby, locating her marriage records and completing her Cradle to Grave Profile. (C2G)

#### **Rule # [3]**

Adopted names, if known should be hyphenated.

For example... Mary Ellen Studdard-(**MURRAY**). Mary is the daughter of John & Betsy "Bacey" Susie Nancy (**PRUITT**) Studdard Murray and was born in Jefferson County, Missouri, United States on 3 October 1865.

Mary's mother; Bacey was previously married to 1<sup>st</sup> James William Studdard on 12 November 1854 with James' death occurring on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1863 during the civil war.

Betsy "Bacey" Susie Nancy (**PRUITT**) Studdard married 2<sup>nd</sup> John Murray circa 1863-1865 and had 4 children whereas John died between 1873-1880.

However, a peculiar thing happened, after John Murray's death, in the 1880 and subsequent census records, Bacey started calling John Murray's 4 children by her previously married deceased husband's surname...Studdard.

The children even married using the Studdard surname however in reality they were all John Murray children.

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When I brought this anomaly to the attention of other Studdard family researchers, none of us could understand her reasons for this strange behavior. Especially since the death of first husband; James William Studdard in 1863 is indisputable and well documented through Civil War records and proves he is not the father of those Murray children.

However, the question came up on how to list the children. Since they are actually Murray children then Murray should be included as their birth surname and since they adopted the Studdard surname, then Studdard should also be included in their name.

I decided the Studdard name...their adopted name, the one they used their whole life, should be listed after their given names for familiar and identification purposes.

This would help all those family researchers who don't know the whole story and only know these children by their Studdard surname.

Also, the Murray surname **MUST** be included to give proper credit and validation to their birth father; John Murray and his marriage to their mother; Bacey (**PRUITT**) Studdard.

John Murray and Bacey (**PRUITT**) Studdard's marriage record has not been located yet, however, one cannot assume these children were born out-of-wedlock.

I can understand one child being born to unmarried parents but four children would not have been proper and I cannot believe Bacey would have permitted such a shameful situation.

Therefore, all four children should be listed as follows...

Mary Ellen Studdard-(**MURRAY**)  
Amanda F. Studdard-(**MURRAY**)  
Lucas Irvin Studdard-Murray  
Henry Harrison Studdard-Murray

This identifies the adult known surname of Studdard, the name they have been known as by their community and credits their birth father; John Murray with his birth surname.

Remember, when you have adopted children, it's ok to use the surname they have been using their adult life for identification purposes. But, also include their birth surname, if known with a hyphen to alert the researcher this person was born with one surname and adopted another either legally or out of convenience.

Your explanation would be recorded in the children's note section of your family history program. Explaining to interested researchers the reasons behind your actions and removes confusion and forges an universal understanding among the family research community.

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### **MORE HARM DONE THAN GOOD...**

When widows or divorced women remarried with children, the new spouse, out of courtesy would give the children his surname. This was done for several reasons...

**[1]** First, to remove any shame from the spouse or mother concerning a previous marriage or divorce.

Your reputation and social status within the community was of upmost importance due to small-minded people. If a woman had any form of moral shadow cast against her reputation, the hypocritical so called "God fearing church women" of the community would make life so miserable for the divorcee, with the intention of forcing them out of the community.

Motivated by fear, these hypocrites feared their husbands would associate with these "loose" women and their own marriage and security would be in jeopardy.

This is why, as so many of the census records reveal, after a woman was separated or divorced from her spouse; she listed herself with the census taker as a widow, even though her ex was still alive.

After all, widowhood was an honorable and acceptable status to the community, if you had been a previously married female.

**[2]** Another reason men gave their surnames to the children of his wife's previous marriage was...to remove any shame, guilt or stigmatism from the children when asked by their peers, why their surname was different from their current "father's" surname.

Back in those days, there was a tremendous stigmatism placed on who your parents were, the type of work you father did, your family's social status within the community and what family ties to either famous or infamous people may be in your family tree. The Bible is full of proud and haughty people concerning their genealogy.

I am sure "new" subsequent husbands thought they were doing the children a favor by giving them their surnames, and with the hypocrisy of small town America, they were right, but in reality and in the long run, they stole the children's identity and robbed them of their true family heritage.

This is why many "adopted" children, who had been given subsequent father's surnames, when attaining adult age, changed their adopted surname back to their birth surname.

However, as a family researcher, by placing both surnames separated with a hyphen, you are helping those children reclaim their heritage and give credit to the true parent where credit is due.



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### **WE NEED A UNIFORM METHOD...**

When various organizations, institutions, newspapers and authors report data concerning our female relatives, they all improvise the method to display their birth surnames, married names and professional names of female participants.

This is unproductive and unnecessary if the whole community would only adopt a uniform method.

For example, displaying birth surnames as (Jones), or JONES or Jones does not convey to the reader in what context does Jones represent this female individual.

However, using (**JONES**) as a standard representation of a female birth surname is so unique as not to be misconstrued or confusing of the writer's intention or meaning.

### **COMPUTER SOFTWARE COMPANIES...**

Another aspect in our society sadly needing harmony and conformity by adopting this method is the computer programming technical departments of software companies.

One example is [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). You would think, being a leader and standard-bearer in the genealogy field, someone in the sacred halls of corporate ancestry.com would have suggested a uniform method to organize, correlate and conform the various improvised displays perpetuated by their patrons concerning the female birth surname.

However, what I have found with the most popular genealogy software programs, not only do they **not offer** as alternatives to the standard female birth surname such as they display as Jones, but their programs become confused, lock-up, freeze and display an inability to recognize any alternatives such as (**JONES**) as **THE** definitive answer to clarifying the female birth surname issue.

In their failure to bring harmony concerning this subject and in their inability to help, educate and lead concerning this vital technical aspect of family history research procedures, they become co-conspirators by perpetuating the problem.

So, it appears we have a long road to haul concerning change in the research community, such as the pioneer originators who finally were able to get the family history community to adopt the date format; using the military style of Day Month and Year in lieu of Month Day, Year.

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**IN CLOSING...**

The more we can educate future researchers as to a uniform method of recording female birth surnames the easier it will be to distinguish female surnames...especially in our current divorce-driven society.

However, educating the public will be a long and tedious task since most reporters, educators, and research descendants do not take family history research seriously and deem this subject as unwarranted and immaterial.

To these uninformed, whatever lackluster style, in their presentations they wish to present their female subjects, is OK as long as they get paid or they justify their postings and are satisfied...at least they made an effort. After all, why verify, investigate and validate your information if no one really cares how accurate your work.

Until this re-education process is complete, the rest of us serious researchers will be labored with unnecessary checking, validating and verifying resulting in time consuming duplication of effort.

The pioneers of an idea, thought or process have always taken the brunt force of public indifference to change until...it becomes an established procedure.

Only by gaining converts, can this process succeed.

I am eliciting your help in this effort, hoping to benefit all future family history researchers.

It makes sense, it is logical and it serves a need in the family history community, a community we all so love and cherish. This process is good and the right thing to do, and have you ever been sorry for doing the right thing?

*Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

*13 August 2014*

*Revised 6 January 2015*



# Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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4	Columbus B A Pratt	b. 1 December 1893 p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~ m. 12 April 1919 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 27 July 1947 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	8	Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt	b. 6 September 1869 p. near Osage Post Office, J~ m. 29 January 1893 p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~ d. 24 March 1914 p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~	16	Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt	b. March 1831 d. 1912	32	Henry Pratt	b. 1800-1803
2	Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt	b. 6 January 1927 p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~ m. 1 March 1947 p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~ d. p.	9	Mary L M Missé Missey	b. 20 February 1874 p. Johnson Twp, Washington~ d. 17 April 1938 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	17	Mary Kimberlin	b. 1835 d. 1876-1880	33	Nancy Carter	b. 1802-1803
1	Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.	b. 3 January 1948 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ m. 14 August 1972 p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~ d. p. sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach	10	Judge J M Johnson Sr.	b. 29 September 1854 p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~ m. 14 May 1884 p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~ d. 21 May 1941 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	18	François C Missé Missey	b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916	34	Rimehart E. Kimberlin	b. 1805
6	Peter Conley Brown	b. 12 January 1893 p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~ m. 16 March 1924 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 3 December 1972 p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdale~	11	Mary Jane T Barton	b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~	19	Cynthia N. Talbot	b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896	35	Frances Jane Peters	b. 1804
3	Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown	b. 31 October 1925 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ d. 1 March 1981 p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~	12	John A. Brown	b. May 1844 p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~ m. 18 November 1891 p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~ d. 31 July 1928 p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~	20	Martin Johnson	b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859	36	Jean B Missé Missey	b. 28 May 1821
7	Olga Elmira O'Daniel	b. 11 March 1907 p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~ d. 7 October 1993 p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~	13	Obedience "Bedie" Lackey	b. 6 February 1871 p. near District 8 Post Office, ~ d. 14 January 1924 p. Western State Hospital, Bol~	21	Comfort Osborn	b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877	37	Marie Françoise Piquette	b. 4 January 1826
			14	James Leonidas O'Daniel	b. 15 December 1869 p. near Rutherford Post Offic~ m. 22 May 1897 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 8 March 1921 p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~	22	William "Billy" Barton	b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922	38	Benjamin "Ben" Talbott	b. 15 June 1811
			15	Daisy Dean Bell	b. 7 September 1881 p. District #19, Walnut Grove~ d. 14 May 1920 p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~	23	Harriet King	b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920	39	Laura Farris	b. 12 February 1818
						24	Joseph Brown Jr.	b. 1827 d.	40	Benjamin Johnson	b. 31 March 1775
						25	Catherine	b. 1825 d.	41	Amelia	b. 23 November 1769
						26	William Stevenson Lackey	b. 20 October 1822 d. 7 July 1893	42	William Osborn	b. 4 July 1777
						27	Nancy Basket Moseley	b. 11 October 1827 d. 20 September 1875	43	Rebecca Richmond	b. 1784
						28	Stephen C. O'Daniel	b. 5 December 1812 d. 1881	44	John Milton Barton	b. 1799
						29	Elizabeth Ellen Gordon	b. 1840 d. 1872	45	Sophia Keitle	b. 1807
						30	John Franklin "Frank" Bell	b. 1 July 1850 d. 1892-1893	46	Rev. Jonathan King	b. 20 December 1800
						31	Hettie M. Jackson	b. 16 December 1861 d. 19 April 1902	47	Mary Holt	b. 29 April 1808
									48	Joseph Brown Sr.	b. 1785
									49	Lydia Hammonds	b. 1792
									50		b.
									51		b.
									52	Enos Lackey	b. 1797
									53	Luvina Beard	b. 1804
									54		b.
									55		b.
									56	Alexander O'Daniel Sr.	b. Abt 1749
									57	Annie Keathley	b. 18 July 1782
									58	John Gordon	b. 1813
									59	Nancy	b. 1820
									60		b.
									61		b.
									62	Alexander Jackson	b. 1840
									63	Mariah "Mary" Ledbetter	b. 1840

## A Little Something About Your Author.....

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.



# A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with at total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)**

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

# A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the Pratt Progenitor Papers and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman  
**Genealogical Institute**



# GENEALOGY ETIQUETTE

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5. All inquiries by third parties for a copy of the material should be forwarded to the original compiler or author.
6. Do not loan or share your information, family heirlooms, special documents, one of a kind, pictures, or irreplaceable materials to non-professional researchers or family members. These types of materials seen to disappear or become damaged.
7. Make copies of important documents or materials when at libraries and be sure to write the name of the book, source, letter or film with the author's name and page number and year of publication.
8. Genealogy work that is not documented is of little value. Remember, you are leaving a trail for those who follow. If future researchers have to verify your work, then of what value is your work?
9. Collect family stories from those relatives who are still alive. This is a short cut to your past and they hold a world of knowledge about your family.
10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

Remember, the family history information that is so easily exchanged today by computer was acquired over years and years of on-site research. While many were engaged in raising families, working for income, and surviving, genealogist researchers did these things **AND** spent their free time in pursuit of the truth about their ancestors. This pursuit required great sacrifice of time, effort and money. Many researchers went to the actual locations to view the marriage, deed, death and birth records including visiting the cemeteries across the United States and foreign countries. This is why it is important to follow the above guidelines; by doing so, you give respect to their work and honor to their memory. Thank You.

*Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.*

4000 20th Street West Apt 113, Bradenton, FL 34205 941-209-1701